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N.S. Power seeks 12% hike

Rates to jump Jan. 1 if increase approved

By **ROBYN YOUNG**
Metro Halifax

Nova Scotia Power Inc. is looking to increase power rates for all Nova Scotians by 12 per cent at the beginning of next year.

"We are experiencing the very

same thing our customers are experiencing" when it comes to the rising cost of energy, said Ralph Tedesco, president and CEO of the utility.

If the Utility and Review Board supports the increase, the jump will happen Jan. 1, 2009.

Premier Rodney MacDonald said his government will do everything it can to ensure the utility does not "gouge" Nova Scotians.

"I will tell you that we will go

through it (the application) with a fine-tooth comb and we will stand up for Nova Scotians on this issue."

Nova Scotia Power faced tough questions last month after its quarterly profits showed the utility had increased its revenue by about \$30 million since the previous quarter.

Critics complained about the sizable profit while customers faced increasing rates. Tedesco said revenue is usually up in the

coal and oil prices

» Tedesco said the utility has no choice but to raise rates: The cost of coal has increased from \$60 a ton to \$133 a ton in the past year and the cost of oil from \$57 a barrel to \$130 a barrel.

first quarter because it's winter and customers are using a lot of power.

New Democrat Leader Darrell Dexter said the utility's move under-

lines what a poor decision it was for the government to scrap the eight per cent tax rebate on electricity for Nova Scotians in this year's budget.

"Regardless of what the UARB will decide, that eight per cent will be a fixed increase for all power users in the province, so even if they were to come back at seven per cent instead of 12, that's still a 15 per cent increase," he said.

-robyn.young@metronews.ca

» celeb buzz p.22

playboy

Hef eyes Downey Jr. to play him in movie



» sports p.10

Bulldogs hockey team moving to Halifax



» travel p.16

Getaway with the girls in N.Y.



High 15°
Low 6°
WEATHER P. 23



SUV bill totals \$23,000

Community Services Minister Judy Stretch yesterday said she and her 17-year-old son will fully reimburse the government \$23,000 for her government-leased SUV the teen crashed earlier this month. The sum is the final price tag for damages to the Ford Escape hybrid. **Story, page 3.**

Store took 25% fundraising cut, team alleges

By **PAUL MCLEOD**
Metro Halifax

A youth basketball team will have to do more fundraising after Superstore took a 25 per cent cut of an event, the team's coach says.

The girls under-16 provincial team spent several hours bagging customers' groceries at the Young Street Superstore Saturday so it could travel to a summer basketball tournament. At the end of the day it raised \$485.

The team said it was told beforehand Superstore would take 10 per cent for its charity, the President's Choice Children's Charity, but at the end of the day an employee said the store would actually take 25 per cent.

"I think pretty well everyone was (surprised)," said team coach Lezlie States. "They said that's what they do. At that point we had already finished for the day so there wasn't much we could do about it."

Superstore ended up taking \$120 of the money the girls raised, States said, adding the team would have to do more fundraising to make up for that amount — but it won't be doing it at Superstore.

"We had previously used them and they didn't take anything off," said States. "I don't know when that started."

Loblaws, the company that owns Superstore, did not return phone calls to Metro Halifax yesterday. -paul.mcleod@metronews.ca



"My girlfriends say golf is a great way to meet people. So I figure, free golf means smart people!"

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local

Three new sections of the Trans Canada Trail opened in New Brunswick yesterday. They included the first water-based trail route in Atlantic Canada along the St. John River in Grand Bay-Westfield and the Trans Canada Trail Pavilion in Rockwood Park in Saint John. The Harbour Passage trail in Saint John was also designated part of the trail. SOURCE: CBC.CA

Municipal charter add blasted

Last-minute change due to Muir exec's Bedford ties: Critics

By ROBYN YOUNG
Metro Halifax

Halifax city council was never "formally" consulted by the province on a bill that would give individual districts the choice to have as many as four elected councillors representing each area, the municipal relations

minister admitted yesterday.

If all districts took advantage of this proposed legislation, an additional 92 seats would have to be added to city council.

The Halifax Regional Municipality Charter was first introduced last Friday and Municipal Relations Minister Jamie Muir said yesterday that the last-minute addition to the charter came about because a group of residents from Bedford ex-

« *There's no question, everybody knows, there's some tension between Bedford and HRM.* »

Jamie Muir,
Municipal Relations Minister

pressed to him their discontent with council's current setup.

They feel they don't have enough say in city politics, he said.

"There's no question,

everybody knows, there's some tension between Bedford and HRM," Muir said.

Critics say the reason this last-minute addition was made to the proposed HRM charter is because Muir's executive assistant, Matthew Christie, ran for the recent Bedford byelection and he promoted this idea in his platform.

"My feeling is that it was done for political motivation," said Liberal MLA Diana Whalen.

Christie was also formerly part of a Bedford group that lobbies for the former municipality to have more control over HRM policies and spending.

She said the section was added in "haste" and there wasn't adequate consultation with the city about the issue.

Both Muir and his assistant said Christie's Bedford connection had nothing to do with the last-minute change to the charter.

Muir said he had no idea his assistant used to be in the lobby group and he and Christie never discussed the issue.

New Democrat MLA Becky Kent said Christie's connection to Bedford and his close position with the municipal relations minister is suspect.

"I'd be shocked to hear that he and the minister wouldn't have had some conversation," she said.

—robyn.young@metronews.ca



Lt.-Gov. Mayann Francis signed off yesterday evening on 31 bills passed during the spring sitting of the legislature.

Legislature closes, budget approved

31 bills passed over 22-day spring sitting

By ROBYN YOUNG
Metro Halifax

As the spring sitting of the legislature came to a close yesterday evening, Lt.-Gov. Mayann Francis signed off on 31 bills that were passed over the 22 day session.

Premier Rodney MacDonald said he was happy that

« *It's going to take a little longer (to pass more bills) and that's the nature of minority government.* »

Premier Rodney MacDonald

the main focus of the spring sitting — the passing of the budget — was successful, but said he would have liked to have seen more bills passed.

A number of them were shelved, such as legislation

that would put stricter parameters around sales at scrap metal yards to prohibit thieves from cashing in on stolen metals.

"It's going to take a little longer and that's the nature of minority government," MacDonald said.

New Democrat Leader Darrell Dexter compared the last few days of the legislature to a "circus," saying there wasn't enough prior consultation on many of the bills tabled.

1 hour, 2 stabbings

Separate incidents leave men injured

By RACHEL BOOMER
Metro Halifax

RCMP responded to two stabbings in metro within an hour of each other Monday night.

At 11 p.m., police were called to the Walker Connection Road, where they say a 27-year-old man came home to find a 20-year-old man in bed with his significant other. He's accused of stabbing the

« *Some type of argument transpired and the 16-year-old female stabbed the 17-year-old male in the chest area.* »

RCMP Cpl. Joe Taplin.

20-year-old man in the bedroom.

The older man was due in Dartmouth provincial court yesterday. The victim's wounds weren't life-threatening, said RCMP Cpl. Joe

Taplin.

Fifty-five minutes later, RCMP arrested a 16-year-old girl outside a Sackville Drive home and charged her with stabbing a 17-year-old male in the chest.

"Some type of argument transpired and the 16-year-old female stabbed the 17-year-old male in the chest area," Taplin said.

Paramedics treated him at the scene. The girl was to appear in youth court yesterday.

—rachel.boomer@metronews.ca

Charges follow school beating

15-year-olds to appear in court

By PAUL MCLEOD
Metro Halifax

Three junior-high students face assault charges after a 14-year-old student at Graham Creighton Junior High School in Westphal was beaten up and sent to hospital.

The three youths, all 15-years-old, allegedly fought the victim yesterday morning in a school stairwell during a break period.

"There was possibly an altercation that took place earlier in the gym, but it was broken up. Then the individuals were in a stairwell during

their break time and (the victim) was assaulted by two of the three youths," said RCMP spokesman Cpl. Joe Taplin. The third youth was arrested for being "a party to the assault."

A teacher broke up the fight and all three alleged assailants were arrested and later charged.

The victim was taken to hospital by his parents after they arrived at the school. His medical state was not known, but an ambulance wasn't deemed necessary.

"He got a black eye. I know he was kicked and punched several times," said Taplin.

The teens are scheduled to appear in youth court June 12.

—paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

» news

In Brief

» **ATTACK** RCMP are looking for a 35-year-old woman who broke into a man's home in Three Fathom Harbour at 2:30 a.m. yesterday and hit him with a wooden object. While the man was asleep, the woman — who was known to her victim — walked into his Lakefield Cove Road home, hit him in the legs, and left with money and other items. The man was treated at the scene.

» **FELLOWSHIP** Dalhousie University psychology professor Helene Deacon has won a \$55,000 fellowship from the National Academy of Education. Deacon, a Rhodes scholar, is studying reading and learning development in children with dyslexia.

» **BUSINESS** The province is giving \$2 million to Impath Networks, an Ottawa-based company setting up headquarters in Halifax. The company builds video surveillance systems for bridges, tunnels, government buildings, airports and jails.

METRO HALIFAX

Hurray for recess: the province is spending \$192,000 for new playground equipment in metro. Eight schools will get money to either replace their playground equipment or set up new accessible playgrounds.

METRO HALIFAX



Streach, son to pay for car crash

Vehicle leased by the government

By ROBYN YOUNG
Metro Halifax

More than \$23,000 is the final price tag on a trip to the ice cream store that ended up in disaster.

Community Services Minister Judy Streach and her 17-year-old son Jordan will pay out the remainder of the government lease on her Ford Escape hybrid that was totaled May 3 while her son was behind the wheel.

Murray Scott, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal said yesterday the government was able to sell the vehicle for scrap metal, the highest bid

coming in at \$10,600.

The total lease is worth more than \$34,000.

"Jordan and I will visit the local credit union and we will be reimbursing the government for the expenses," Streach said yesterday.

The crash happened when

Jordan took the SUV to the corner store for ice cream with his girlfriend and ended up in a ditch.

Streach was criticized for allowing her teenaged son to drive the government-leased vehicle, which Premier Rodney MacDonald said should only be used for government business.

The minister apologized for allowing her son to drive the car admitting it was a poor decision on her part.

"I stated from the beginning that my family and I take full responsibility for this and that hasn't changed," she said yesterday.

«I stated from the beginning that my family and I take full responsibility for this and that hasn't changed.»

Judy Streach

Community Services Minister

A few days after the crash, Premier Rodney MacDonald announced cabinet ministers would no longer have the option of driving government-leased vehicles.

Their only choices now are to collect mileage or a \$700, taxable monthly allowance.

—robyn.young@metronews.ca

D.U.M.B. Driving with distractions



Cyril Lunney of Breakfast Television tried out the D.U.M.B. (Distractions Undermining Motorist Behaviour) car yesterday in front of Province House. The Insurance Bureau of Canada will travel through the province with the car this summer to bring awareness to Nova Scotia drivers about the dangers of distractions such as cellphones, CDs, MP3 players and eating and drinking while driving.

ROBYN YOUNG/METRO HALIFAX

New trial in sex assault case

Friend claims victim said sex was consensual

By RACHEL BOOMER
Metro Halifax

A 27-year-old man convicted of sexually assaulting a 12-year-old with a weapon has won a new trial — because the girl's friend testified the sex was consensual.

The appeal court decision, released yesterday, means Lealand Rupert Strong won't have to serve the four-year federal jail term to which he was sentenced earlier.

The girl originally testified that in June 2004, Strong threatened her with a sharp object to force her to have sex

with him at the home where she was babysitting. Strong, however, testified the two were chatting online while he was babysitting, and that he invited her to the home, where they had consensual sex. The girl said she told Strong she was about to turn 13; he said the girl told him she was 15 or 16. He said she drank alcohol at the house; she denied that.

Strong claimed the sharp object was a Swiss army knife in his pocket that he put onto the coffee table, and said he didn't threaten her with it.

One of the girl's friends testified that the girl told her she agreed to have sex with Strong, and that they drank together at the house. The trial judge didn't mention that in

«It is not apparent how (her) evidence affected the judge's assessment of ... credibility. Therefore, this problem can only be resolved by a new trial.»

Chief Justice Michael MacDonald

his decision to convict Strong.

In his decision, Chief Justice Michael MacDonald said the friend's evidence made the victim's credibility questionable.

"It is not apparent how (her) evidence affected the judge's assessment of ... credibility. Therefore, this problem can only be resolved by a new trial," MacDonald wrote.

—rachel.boomer@metronews.ca

news In Brief

» **CONTRACT** Amherst town council has awarded the canteen contract at its recreational facilities to one of its members. The council says no conflict of interest arises from the award. Council awarded the contract for the canteens at the Amherst Stadium and Robb Centennial Complex to Coun. George Baker after receiving a legal opinion from its lawyer, Doug Shatford. When the town announced requests for proposals to privatize both canteen operations it only received two bids — Baker's and one other. Baker removed himself during any discussion on the issue. **AMHERST DAILY NEWS**

Father, son found safe

By RACHEL BOOMER
Metro Halifax

A 44-year-old dad and his 12-year-old son were found safe yesterday morning after their family reported they'd gotten lost in Kejimikujik National Park Monday.

The two, from North Brookfield, Queens Co., had left for a fishing trip at 2:30 Monday afternoon. They were planning to paddle their homemade boat to Grafton Lake and be home by nightfall.

When they didn't arrive home by 2:30 a.m., their fam-

ily called the RCMP. A 27-member search team made up of RCMP, Parks Canada staff and volunteer search-and-rescue squads from Queens and Annapolis counties searched the park at daybreak.

Crew aboard a Natural Resources helicopter spotted them at 9:45 a.m. yesterday. They'd gotten lost not far from their destination.

"When you're nervous in the woods, the key thing is to keep your head about you, and that's what they did," Parks Canada spokesman Jonathan Sheppard said.



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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, hotel transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accommodation.	
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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 6 nights 3-star accommodation in the Bayswater area. BONUS Continental breakfast included daily. ADD a River Thames hop on-hop off pass for \$21.	

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Going to college is about to cost you more. The Nova Scotia Community College is increasing its fees by anywhere from \$40 for its general arts and science programs, to \$300 for international students. For more information, visit www.nssc.ca.

METRO HALIFAX

Search for fishermen continues

The search for two men off the coast of Prospect continued throughout last night, but was hampered by rough seas and fog.

Gerald Blackburn, 62, and his son Gerry Blackburn, 30, were last seen on their fishing boat yesterday morning off the coast of Prospect. They were headed out in their 25-foot lobster boat at

6:45 a.m.

The Canadian Coast Guard was advised at 10 a.m. the vessel's return was overdue.

Floating debris from the boat was located near Shannon Island at about 10:50 a.m.

RCMP say both men had access to immersion suits, which are designed to prevent hypothermia in cold

water. Two Canadian Coast Guard ships, three Navy helicopters, RCMP and local fishing vessels searched for the pair all day yesterday.

Last night, local search and rescue workers assisted, combing the shoreline as kayakers and the Halifax regional fire services were also on hand to help.

METRO HALIFAX

Cat bylaw dead?

Council moves to pass motion on nuisance laws

since the community had already been consulted last fall.

Councillors voted 19-2.

By LINDSAY JONES
Metro Halifax

«Well, Mr. Mayor, the cat won't have my tongue on this one. I feel that we're circumventing the process»

Coun. David Hendsbee

The cat bylaw is a step closer to being put down.

Last night, regional council passed the first readings of a motion to scrap cats from the city's new animal bylaw and instead include them under nuisance legislation.

The move means cat owners would be on the hook for a \$200 fine if their pets damage or poop on property and the owners don't immediately remove it. Cats won't have to be licensed nor will there be a multi-million dollar shelter – two things proposed in the cat bylaw.

The motion also included forgoing a public hearing

Preston-Lawrencetown-Chezzetcook Coun. David Hendsbee voted against it, saying people deserve to be heard on the issue.

"Well, Mr. Mayor, the cat won't have my tongue on this one," he said. "I feel that we're circumventing the process."

Council's newest member, Bedford Coun. Tim Outhit, said that after knocking on 2,000 doors and taking hun-

dreds of emails and phone calls that he's confident people have heard enough about cats.

Sackville Coun. Bob Harvey expressed concern that the issue has become more of political nuisance than an animal nuisance. "We're losing the intent we started with which is to bring some order to the situation and add cats to the bylaw," Harvey said, adding that the nuisance law won't work when cats don't have to be licensed.



Hendsbee

"It will help dealing with granny down the street with Fluffy the cat, but it won't help with the lady next store with 30 cats who feeds them and doesn't take any ownership beyond that and is driving her neighbours crazy."

—lindsayjones@metronews.ca

Man released on \$10,000 bail

Faces 10 weapons charges connected to police discovery

charges

» Among the charges against Lindsay are possession for the purpose of weapons trafficking, unauthorized possession of firearms, possession of weapons for a dangerous purpose and two counts of breaching probation.

By PAUL MCLEOD
Metro Halifax

A local man facing several weapons charges went free on bail of \$10,000 under strict conditions yesterday.

Alex Stuart Lindsay faces 10 charges, including weapons trafficking, after police raided his home earlier in the month and found a

cache of weapons, including machine guns and assault rifles.

Lindsay was released on bail but will remain under house arrest at his family's

home. He also must undergo a mental health assessment and is not allowed to access the internet.

Lindsay's grandfather, John W. Lindsay Sr., founded Lindsay enterprises, which has built several well known buildings such as the Purdy's Wharf towers.

Lindsay's lawyer, Joel Pink, said there was no ammunition found with the weapons and it was not clear whether they were operational.

—paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

5,300 lobsters seized in bust

By RACHEL BOOMER
Metro Halifax

Fisheries officials have seized a record catch of 5,300 undersized lobsters in Yarmouth County.

At 11 p.m. Monday, fisheries officers boarded the Kayla & Dylan, a 13-metre fishing vessel out of Wedgeport. Field supervisor Dan Fleck said yesterday they found 35 crates of undersized lobsters aboard.

"People will try to sneak in a dozen, but a seizure of this quantity of lobsters has never, ever happened before. We're all just amazed to think someone would try to attempt this," Fleck said.

Lobsters must be bigger than 82.5 millimetres in order to be caught and sold. Otherwise, they don't have a chance to reproduce, and to sell them is illegal. The men will be in court July 15.

—rachel.boomer@metronews.ca

Legislation

Province revamps Animal Cruelty Act

SPCA As a result of a recent spate of animal protection issues in Nova Scotia, the province yesterday introduced legislation to replace the Animal Cruelty Prevention Act and divide it into two. A head inspector will oversee both department and the SPCA which will gain six or seven inspectors.

METRO HALIFAX

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The Municipal Tax System needs to change. We need your help!

The Tax Reform Committee is looking for public feedback on its ideas for a new tax system. The Committee believes a new tax system should be service-based, consider the ability to pay and be based on solid principles. They are also proposing that:

- There would be 9 municipal tax rates, each levied at a flat rate per home, defined by service: hydrants, solid waste, local roads, local transit, sidewalks, community recreation facilities, regional roads, regional transit, and a broad regional tax (for police, fire, libraries, and other costs).
- Multi-unit buildings (apartments and condos) would be taxed at a reduced rate.
- There would be an increase in support for lower-income families.
- The deed transfer tax would be eliminated.
- Assessment would remain on provincial services such as mandatory education.

The Tax Reform Committee will be holding the following Open Houses on municipal tax reform. Drop by, e-mail, call or write. We want to hear from you!

Wednesday, May 28th
St. Agnes Church Hall, Halifax, 7-9 pm

Thursday, May 29th
Bedford Lions Den, 7-9 pm

Wednesday, June 4th
Inn on the Lake, Fall River, 7-9 pm

For more information, please visit www.halifax.ca/taxreform, e-mail taxreform@halifax.ca or call 490-4886.

WORKING TOGETHER
TO REBUILD THE MUNICIPAL TAX SYSTEM IN HRM

canada



The diocese of Huron in southwestern Ontario voted this week to become the fourth in the Anglican Church of Canada in favour of same-sex unions, the Church announced yesterday. The Church has run afoul of the world-wide Anglican community for allowing same-sex blessings.

REUTERS

Exit plan in question

Top-secret Afghan strategy was in Bernier's possession

Maxime Bernier had a host of classified information at his fingertips that he may have left in possession of ex-girlfriend Julie Couillard, but likely none more sensitive than details of a top secret paper described as an exit strategy for the mission in Afghanistan.

A number of current and former officials concede that



detailed outline

» The document in question reportedly provides a detailed outline of how and when the more than 47,000 alliance troops would be able to leave Afghanistan based on progress in training police, soldiers and local bureaucrats and defeating corruption and drug production.

shoddy handling of the secret NATO Afghan plan, signed in the first week of April, represents a worst-case scenario for the government.

Whether or not the information fell into the wrong hands in that time, the situation highlights Prime Minis-

ter Stephen Harper's "appalling lack of judgement" in backing his chief diplomat, the opposition says.

"The prime minister has never taken this issue seriously," said Liberal foreign affairs critic Bob Rae.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tory travel expense records altered

The Conservative government has twice altered expense records for international trips after Torstar News Service questioned the high cost of the excursion.

The records on a publicly available website were changed — thousands of dol-

lars removed in one case and a lengthy journey shortened in another — for past trips involving then-foreign affairs minister Maxime Bernier and Brian Jean, parliamentary secretary to the minister of transport.

In both cases the govern-

ment refused to provide the printed records — tickets, hotel records — that would verify the change.

The travel records are kept on the federal government's website under the heading Proactive Disclosure.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ottawa Net neutrality



Kim Farr, left, and Mandy Lewis were among a large crowd that rallied on Parliament Hill yesterday in support of net neutrality, as a Supreme Court of Canada ruling looms on Bell's practice of slowing the speed of third-party Internet providers.

TIM WIEGANS/METRO-OTAWA

Vancouver

Couple lists baby for sale, arrested

CRAIGSLIST A Vancouver couple has been arrested in what police said yesterday was an apparent offer to sell a seven-day-old baby girl on Craigslist for \$10,000.

A woman who saw the offer on the popular website alerted police, who tracked down the 23-year-old mother and 26-year-old father using a cellphone number that was listed in the advertisement.

REUTERS

»news In Brief

» **VANCOUVER** British Columbia Supreme Court judge Ian Pitfield ruled yesterday that the Canadian government cannot constitutionally shut Insite, North America's only legally sanctioned drug injection site, for at least another year.

» **FREEFALL** French parachutist

Michael Fournier's bid to set a world freefall record was in doubt yesterday after the balloon that was to carry him 40 km above North Battleford, Sask., separated from its gondola and floated away before takeoff.

» **HOUSING** The federal government must implement

a national strategy to tackle a shortage of affordable housing that has reached "crisis" levels in Canadian cities, Liberal MPs urge in a new urban blueprint to be released today. The blueprint points to the "dramatic shortage" of affordable housing as the main issue to be addressed.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

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world



Restrictions by U.S. east coast states on harvesting horseshoe crabs, left, whose eggs provide food for endangered migrating shore birds, have boosted the animal's population after years of over-fishing, experts say.

REUTERS

» news

In Brief



» **DATA** Newly diagnosed cases of post-traumatic stress disorder among U.S. troops sent to Iraq and Afghanistan surged 46.4 per cent in 2007, bringing the five-year total to nearly 40,000, according to U.S. military data released yesterday.

» **GAS** At least 100 people were admitted to hospital yesterday after inhaling chlorine gas leaking from a water treatment plant in Jamshedpur township which is run by Indian car maker Tata Motors, officials said.

REUTERS

60% of aid goal reached: UN

The United Nations said yesterday it had raised roughly 60 per cent of its initial \$200 million target for aid for cyclone-ravaged Myanmar, where aid workers were now experiencing fewer access problems.

"We've reached just over a million people with some kind of aid," UN humanitarian affairs chief John Holmes said. The UN estimates that some 2.4 million people in Myanmar are in urgent need of help.

Speaking about Sunday's

pledging conference in Yangon, he said the UN had raised some \$119 million, around 60 per cent of its initial "flash appeal" target for victims of Cyclone Nargis. Separately, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that the total amount of aid offered to Myanmar relief efforts amounted to nearly \$233 million as of Monday. This includes the money raised by the UN under the UN flash appeal.

REUTERS

Myanmar extends Suu Kyi's detention

Western nations dismayed by move



political front

» Although few expected Suu Kyi to be released, the extension is a timely reminder of the ruling military's refusal to make any concessions on the domestic political front despite its grudging acceptance of foreign help after the May 2 cyclone.

Myanmar's junta extended the house arrest of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday, a move that dismayed some of the Western nations who promised millions of dollars in aid after Cyclone Nargis.

Officials drove to the Nobel laureate's lakeside Yangon home to read out an extension order in person, said a government official, who asked not to be identified.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who just returned

to New York from a weeklong aid mission in Myanmar, expressed disappointment but refrained from sharp criticism. He added that his special envoy for Myanmar, Ibrahim Gambari, would raise the issue of Suu Kyi with the junta.

The 62-year-old Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy party won a 1990 election by a landslide only to

be denied power by the army, has now spent nearly 13 of the last 18 years under some form of arrest.

Her latest period of detention started on May 30, 2003, "for her own protection" after clashes between her supporters and pro-junta thugs in the northern town of Depayin. The last of a series of year-long extensions expired yesterday.

REUTERS



What do you value about Nova Scotia's natural resources?

The Voluntary Planning Natural Resources Citizen Engagement Committee is holding community meetings throughout the province in May and June.

You are invited to participate and share your ideas about the future of the province's biodiversity, forests, minerals and parks.

Your ideas will help develop a long-term, provincewide natural resources strategy.

Make sure your voice is heard.

Monday, June 9, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Holiday Inn, 1980 Robie Street, Halifax

The community meetings will be held in an interactive format where all participants are encouraged to contribute their views in large and small group conversations.

A conversation starter is available at vp.gov.ns.ca, at Access Nova Scotia Centres, or by contacting Voluntary Planning.

Submit your written comments online at: vp.gov.ns.ca

by fax to: **902-424-0580**

by email to: volplan@gov.ns.ca

by mail to: **Voluntary Planning, Suite 600, 1690 Hollis Street, Halifax, NS B3J 3J9**

All submissions must be made by Thursday, July 31, 2008.

For more information on the community meetings or to speak directly with the committee's support staff, call Voluntary Planning at 902-424-8644 or toll-free at 1-866-858-5850.

Part of The New Nova Scotia: Path to 2020.

For information on other strategies and ways you can participate, visit www.gov.ns.ca/2020.

Voluntary Planning is an arm's length Board of the Government of Nova Scotia mandated to engage Nova Scotians on the important policy issues for our future.



VOLUNTARY PLANNING

A Citizens' Policy Forum

Moscow Fine art



SERGEI KARAVKIN/REUTERS

A visitor looks at art by Konstantin Khudyakov at the Moscow Fine Art Fair yesterday. Wealthy Russians who can't spare the millions needed to buy headline art from Europe and the U.S. are snapping up cheaper contemporary works from Russia.

Nuclear

Germany presses Iran over program

REPORT Germany said yesterday the international community must push for a faster response from Iran over its nuclear program, while the U.S. said a new UN report suggested Tehran wanted to acquire nuclear weapons.

France, also reacting to the report on Iran issued on Monday by the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, gave cautious backing to the U.S. position.

The IAEA report said Iran's alleged research into nuclear warheads remained a matter of serious concern and Tehran should provide more information on its missile-related activities.

Iran's envoy to the agency, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, said the report showed Tehran's nuclear program was peaceful.

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Taser may have affected heart

A quick shock from a Taser may have zapped a man's fluttering heart back into a healthy rhythm, doctors reported yesterday.

They cited the incident as evidence that the devices, which are used by police who want to use less-than-lethal force to incapacitate people but are condemned by some civil rights groups as

dangerous, may affect the heart as critics allege.

In this case, the outcome was a happy one, the doctors reported in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*. Several lawsuits in the United States and Canada contend the devices, which use an electric charge to subdue an attacker, can stop the heart.

REUTERS

Witness takes the stand

American says he gave Olmert cash



money

» Talansky said he handed over sums ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 at a time, in Israel or in hotel suites during visits Olmert made to New York before becoming PM.

» Israeli law broadly prohibits political donations of more than a few hundred dollars.

A U.S. businessman at the centre of a bribery case against Prime Minister Ehud Olmert testified yesterday he gave the Israeli leader cash-stuffed envelopes including personal loans that were never repaid.

Morris Talansky told the Jerusalem District Court he had passed \$150,000 to the

veteran politician over a 15-year period, praising Olmert as "a man who could accomplish a great deal" for Israel and who deserved his support.

"I gave (Olmert) cash in en-

velopes," Talansky, a New York-based fundraiser, said in preliminary testimony requested by prosecutors.

Both Olmert and Talansky have denied any wrongdoing in the case that has raised

questions about the prime minister's political survival at a time when he is talking peace with the Palestinians and pursuing indirect negotiations with Syria.

Olmert, 62, has said he will resign if indicted, but chief prosecutor Moshe Lador said it was too early to say if an indictment would be issued and that a decision would only be taken on completion of the police probe. **REUTERS**

Spain Migrants caught



SANTIAGO FERRERO/REUTERS

A would-be immigrant rests after arriving at Granadilla on Spain's Canary island of Tenerife yesterday. Sixty-six would-be immigrants were intercepted aboard a fishing boat on their way to European soil from Africa, according to authorities.

»news In Brief

» **TOLL** More than 50 people have been killed in political violence since Zimbabwe's disputed March 29 elections and 25,000 have fled their homes, opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai said yesterday.

» **AMNESTY** Chile's armed forces are still shielding their own from justice for killings and torture during Augusto Pinochet's iron-fisted 1973-1990 dictatorship, Amnesty International charged late yesterday. **REUTERS**



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Peru will sign free-trade deals with Canada and Singapore this week, President Alan Garcia said, as the Andean country aggressively pursues trade after landing a landmark deal with the United States.

REUTERS

THE DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

Mexican court dismisses action against Metales:

Halifax's Gammon Gold Inc. announced yesterday that the courts of the Mexican State of Guanajuato have dismissed a \$13 million action brought against Metales, an inactive subsidiary of Gammon. Gammon has always maintained that the action was without merit, a position that was upheld by the Court on May 21.

Entrepreneur deadline June 6:

Business entrepreneurs aged 19 to 35 from across Canada have until June 6 to apply for the 2008 Young Entrepreneur Awards (YEA), which will be presented on October 21 at a ceremony in Vancouver, B.C., during

Small Business Week. Thirteen award winners, one from each province and territory, will be recognized nationwide for their business and leadership accomplishments. Entrepreneurs can nominate themselves. Application forms can be downloaded from BDC's website at www.bdc.ca/yea.

Exporters predict 2009 upturn:

Nova Scotia's total exports are expected to fall by one per cent in 2008 before rebounding by 4.8 per cent in 2009, according to a Provincial Export Forecast released yesterday by Export Development Canada (EDC). The 2009 rebound is attributable to better conditions in the US and a weaker Canadian dollar that will benefit exporters in the resources sectors. Nationally, economic growth is forecast to decline to 1 per cent in 2008 with a slight upturn to 2.3 per cent in 2009. Internationally, EDC is forecasting a 3.8 per cent growth rate in 2008 and 2009.

EDC's complete Global Export Forecast is available at www.edc.ca/gef.

Acadian announces lead agent:

Halifax's Acadian Mining Corporation has announced that Annapolis Gold Corporation has entered into an agreement with Desjardins Securities Inc. as lead agent for Canaccord Capital Corporation, Bieber Securities Inc., Fraser MacKenzie, Integral Wealth Securities Limited and Acadian Securities Incorporated as syndicate members. They will market up to 20 million units of Annapolis, which is the new company into which Acadian intends to "spin out" its gold assets under a statutory plan of arrangement.

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Spectrum bids begin

Airwaves auction set to open up wireless market



concentration of control

» The three big players — Rogers Communications Inc., Telus Corp. and BCE Inc. — currently control about 95 per cent of the wireless market in terms of revenue.

The federal government launched an auction of wireless spectrum yesterday that it hopes will bolster competition and lower prices by allowing new players to break into the cellular phone market.

In a process that Industry Minister Jim Prentice esti-

mates could take up to a month to complete, 24 companies can bid electronically on 292 licences for chunks of wireless airwaves in different geographical regions across the country.

Of the 105 megahertz

(MHz) of spectrum to be auctioned, 40 MHz will be set aside for new players.

Newcomers include Quebecor Inc., Manitoba Telecom Services (MTS) and Shaw Communications Inc.

REUTERS

»news In Brief

» **DELL** A New York judge ruled against Dell Inc. yesterday, saying the computer maker engaged in fraud, false advertising, deceptive business and abusive debt collection

practices. The judge said Dell lured customers with advertisements offering "no interest" or "no payment" financing options, but its financing arm would charge higher rates.

» **AIRWAYS** Low-fare U.S. carrier JetBlue Airways Corp. said yesterday it plans to defer delivery of 21 Airbus A320 aircraft for up to five years, citing current high fuel costs.



REUTERS

China, S. Korea Free trade considerations



Chinese President Hu Jintao, left, speaks as visiting South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, second right, listens during a meeting at the Great Hall of the People yesterday in Beijing. The leaders of China and South Korea agreed to "actively consider" beginning talks for a free trade deal at their summit meeting yesterday.

CLAUDE CORTEZ/REUTERS

BMO, Scotiabank post lower quarterly profits

Two of Canada's Big Six chartered banks kicked off the spring quarterly earnings season yesterday by revealing lower profits and higher provisions for credit losses.

Neither development was unexpected by analysts.

Net income fell 3 per cent

at Bank of Montreal to \$642 million in the second quarter ended April 30, or \$1.25 a share.

Scotiabank, with greater international operations than BMO, said net income fell 6 per cent to \$980 million, or 97 cents a share.

REUTERS

oil and gas

Don't sell Arctic rights, WWF urges

BEAUFORT A major environmental group formally urged Ottawa yesterday not to proceed with plans to sell oil and gas rights in the Beaufort Sea in Canada's Arctic, saying not enough had been done to protect the area's wildlife.

WWF-Canada said the planned June 2 sale contravenes a law that requires a management plan to be set up for the region before the rights can be sold.

"This sale is premature due to the absence of a ... plan that would protect sensitive habitats, which polar bears, beluga and bowhead whales need for their survival," Peter Ewins, the group's director of species conservation, said at news conference.

REUTERS

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Please recycle

sports



Damon Allen is finally ready to hang up his helmet and shoulder pads. The 44-year-old CFL quarterback and future hall of famer, left, is expected to announce his retirement at a press conference today. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pens look to bounce back

Team to use anger as motivation in Game 3

On the 200-kilometre stretch of highway from Erie, Pa., to Pittsburgh, there were no fewer than 21 deer carcasses on the shoulders of the southbound lanes yesterday.

Around here, the only other species to have almost as tough a Memorial Day weekend as the Penguins. They also were road kill; rolled over with machine-like efficiency by the Detroit Red Wings in the first two games of the Stanley Cup final.

It's a desperate situation for the Penguins as they prepare to play Game 3 on home ice tonight. Only two teams in NHL history have rallied from an 0-3 series deficit. The Pens, who have rarely touched the puck, let alone scored in the series, can't be counted on to become the third.

But instead of freezing in the headlights, the Pens are flailing back. In lieu of offence, they are desperately trying to manufacture some passion, settling for cheap shots on and off the ice when they can't create any shots on it.

"Hopefully, we've built a little of that anger up and we can use that to our advantage," Pittsburgh veteran Gary Roberts said yesterday.



Penguins captain Sidney Crosby, a native of Cole Harbour, prepares to shoot the puck against teammate Dany Sabourin during the team's practice yesterday ahead of tonight's Game 3 of the Stanley Cup final in Pittsburgh.

It was Roberts, while trying to do just that late in Game 2, who hit Detroit's Johan Franzen in the head with a gloved left hand. Franzen had just returned from a six-game absence due to concussion symptoms. The 42-year-old Roberts later claimed it was an accidental shoulder that hit Franzen.

"Does he have shoulder pads on his hands?" wondered an incredulous Detroit coach Mike Babcock.

Roberts said Franzen, who fell to the ice and remained there for a few moments, was putting on a show with his theatrics. It was a clever salvo in what could have become an escalating war of words. That's tough to create, however, when one team won't play along. "We have thick skin," responded Detroit forward Kris Draper. "The bottom line is we're trying to win hockey games."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

»sports In Brief

» **GOLF** Tiger Woods is set to return at next month's U.S. Open even though his recovery from a knee operation has sorely tested his patience, the world No. 1 said yesterday.

» **NBA** Kobe Bryant scored 28 points and added 10 rebounds to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 93-91 win over the San Antonio Spurs in Game 4 of the Western Conference finals last night. The Lakers lead the series 3-1. Tim Duncan answered with 29 points and

17 boards for the Spurs.

» **HORSE RACING** Triple Crown hopeful Big Brown got back on the track at Belmont Park yesterday for his first workout since being diagnosed with a stress fracture in his hoof. The Belmont Stakes is June 7.

» **TENNIS** Former world No. 1 Amelie Mauresmo advanced to the second round of the French Open with a 7-5, 4-6, 6-1 win over Ukraine's Olga Savchuk yesterday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

STANLEY CUP FINAL
PITTSBURGH VS. DETROIT
Game 3 — Tonight
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 9
Game 4 — Saturday
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 9
*Game 5 — Monday
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 9
*Game 6 — Wednesday, June 4
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 9
*Game 7 — Saturday, June 7
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 9
(Detroit leads series 2-0)
(* — if necessary)

NBA

CONFERENCE FINALS
EASTERN CONFERENCE
BOSTON VS. DETROIT
Game 4 — Monday
Detroit 94 Boston 75
Game 5 — Tomorrow
Detroit at Boston, 9:30
Game 6 — Friday
Boston at Detroit, 9:30

*Game 7 — Sunday
Detroit at Boston, 9:30
(Series tied 2-2)
WESTERN CONFERENCE
L.A. LAKERS VS. SAN ANTONIO
Game 4 — Last night
L.A. Lakers 93 San Antonio 91
Game 5 — Thursday
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 10
*Game 6 — Saturday
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 9:30
*Game 7 — Monday
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 10
(L.A. Lakers lead series 3-1)
(* — if necessary)

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
AMERICAN LEAGUE
Cleveland 8 Chicago W. Sox 2
Texas 12 Tampa Bay 6
Minnesota 4 Kan. City 3 (12 ins)
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore
Toronto at Oakland
Detroit at L.A. Angels
Boston at Seattle
NATIONAL LEAGUE

Chicago Cubs 3 L.A. Dodgers 1
N.Y. Mets 5 Florida 3
Cincinnati 3 Pittsburgh 3
Milwaukee 3 Atlanta 2
Houston 8 St. Louis 2
Philadelphia 7 Colorado 4
San Francisco at Arizona
Washington at San Diego
TONIGHT'S GAMES
AMERICAN LEAGUE
Chicago W. Sox at Cleveland, 1:05
Texas at Tampa Bay, 1:40
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore, 8:05
Minnesota at Kansas City, 9:10
Toronto at Oakland, 11:05
Detroit at L.A. Angels, 11:05
Boston at Seattle, 11:10
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Colorado at Philadelphia, 8:05
Florida at N.Y. Mets, 8:10
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 8:10
Atlanta at Milwaukee, 9:05
L.A. Dodgers at Chicago Cubs, 9:05
Houston at St. Louis, 9:15
San Francisco at Arizona, 10:40
Washington at San Diego, 11:05



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Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Andruw Jones, left, is expected to be sidelined for at least four weeks after having surgery to repair torn cartilage in his right knee yesterday. Jones is hitting just .165 with two home runs and seven RBIs. REUTERS

No rest for top athlete nominee

Kikuchi sets sights on another Olympic spot

By MATTHEW WUEST
Metro Halifax

David Kikuchi was honoured yesterday for his past accomplishments, but the Fall River gymnast knows he can't rest on those to get him back to the Olympic Games.

Kikuchi, announced yesterday as a finalist for Sport Nova Scotia's IKON individual male athlete of the year, starts with a clean slate at next week's Canadian artistic gymnastics championships in Calgary — the first qualifier for the Beijing Olympics.

He's not getting ahead of himself. "I've just gotta make the team and that's all I'm concentrating on," he said. "If I'm good enough and lucky enough to make it, I've got to train hard and prepare to have a good competition."

The 28-year-old's track record makes him a near lock. He is a former national champion who has been to multiple world championships and the 2004 Olympics. He also won gold with Canada at the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

He helped Canada qualify six gymnasts for the Olympics at last Sep-



Halifax gymnast David Kikuchi is one of three finalists for the Ikon award for male individual athlete of the year.

tember's worlds, a big reason why he is up for the IKON award along with Halifax natives Jackie Barrett (Special Olympics power-lifter) and Paul Tingley (Paralympic sailor).

Kikuchi said two good gymnasts could be left in the cold.

"Nobody has a spot on the team and for those six spots, there are eight guys that are very, very strong," he said. "Any of those eight could make the team. Any of those eight couldn't."

With a strong performance, Kikuchi can also earn his coach and

father, Tak Kikuchi, a trip to the Olympics. Tak was nominated for the IKON coach of the year award yesterday.

Snowboarder Sarah Conrad of Dartmouth capped an impressive season with a nomination for the female individual athlete of the year award along with Caledonia sprinter Jenna Martin and Waverley kayaker Karen Furneaux.

Conrad, a 2006 Olympian, won silver at a World Cup event in Stoneham, Que., in March. She is working toward a spot at the 2010 Olympics,

who's up for an Ikon?

Sport Nova Scotia's Ikon award nominees. Winners will be announced at a banquet on Saturday.

» Official of the year — Frank Gardner (canoe-kayak), Jonathan McIsaac (hockey), Lou Davis (softball).

» Team of the year — Nova Scotia under-17 (basketball), Connor Taras and Lyall Hutton (kayak), Patrick Convey and Devin Gordon (rowing).

» Coach of the year — Tak Kikuchi (gymnastics), Lisa Jordan (hockey), Natasha Burgess (snowboard).

» Female team athlete of the year — Zara Huntley (basketball), Brittany Haverstock (hockey), Kerith Gordon (ringette).

» Male team athlete of the year — John Mattatall (figure skating), Alex Grant (hockey), Oliver Bone (sailing).

» Female individual athlete of the year — Jenna Martin (athletics), Karen Furneaux (kayak), Sarah Conrad (snowboard).

» Male individual athlete of the year — David Kikuchi (gymnastics), Jackie Barrett (Special Olympic power-lifting), Paul Tingley (Paralympic sailing).

where a top-five finish is her goal.

"That would be super-good for me," the 23-year-old said. "There's so much work to do the next couple of years."

The IKON award winners will be announced on Saturday.

—matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Junior A Bulldogs moving to Halifax

Local group buys Antigonish team

By MATTHEW WUEST
Metro Halifax

Junior A hockey didn't leave Halifax with the Wolverines — it will be back at the Forum in the fall.

The Maritime Junior A Hockey League announced yesterday that a nine-member ownership group has purchased the Antigonish Bulldogs and is moving the team to Halifax.

John Keizer, a former president of the Pictou County Weeks, and Eric Thompson, a former MJHL president, are leading a group will attempt to fill the void left in April when the Wolverines packed their bags for Bridgewater.

"I feel there's a niche here, an opportunity here, for junior A hockey," said Keizer. "We're going to work very diligently to make sure that happens and that we're successful."

The Wolverines struggled with attendance at the Forum this past season, rarely exceeding crowds of 600. Keizer said his group's broad-based ownership approach differs from past franchises in Halifax and expects it to be a key to success.

"Gone are the days when an organization such as this can be a one-person show," Keizer said.

"There's new people, fresh ideas and a renewed vigour and commitment to making a franchise go," said John Lynn, chairman of the MJHL board. "There were questions about Halifax, but they understand them and will address them."

Dan Sangster will serve as acting general manager and will hold the job for "as long as is required," Keizer said. Keizer added that a head coach, team name and logo should be in place before the draft, which is June 20 and 21 in Amherst.

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Pens need to show class

Seems that was quite an omen when goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury fell flat on his face while leading his team from the dressing room to the ice just before the Stanley Cup opener the other night.

His teammates, the Pittsburgh Penguins, have been falling flat on their faces ever since.

They've been thoroughly outplayed by the Detroit Red Wings in the first two games of the Cup final.

They haven't scored a goal.

And their head coach, Michel Therrien, has embarrassed himself with silly suggestions that the Wings have resorted to sneaky obstruction tactics and that Detroit netminder Chris Osgood has resorted to acting when Pittsburghers have skated near him.

Hey, the Pens enjoyed a very, very good season. They ought not to spoil it now with inept play and sense-



YORK REPORT
MARTY YORK
marty.york@metronews.ca

less whining.

» Therrien's assistant coach, Andre Savard, will likely become the Florida Panthers' new head coach ...

Peter DeBoer, general manager and head coach of the OHL's Kitchener Rangers, is among the top coaching prospects for the Ottawa Senators, who also are considering former NHLers Randy Cunneynworth and Craig Hartsburg.

» Don't look now, but ex-Blue Jay Eric Hinske has more home runs and runs batted in with the Tampa Bay Rays than any Toronto player. Hinske entered last

night with nine homers and 25 RBIs in 140 at-bats — as a utility player. He's a major reason for the Rays' ascent to top spot in the AL East.

Another is Dioner Navarro, who picked up new bats and a new stance and entered last night with a .369 average. He's been baseball's most productive catcher.

» Auto racing's Danica Patrick did herself no favours by cussing and emulating a hockey goon after she was knocked out of the Indy 500 the other day.

She already had her share of detractors, partly because of her self-promoting style and, sadly, partly because she's a woman. But her foul mouth and goonish threats Sunday gave folks legitimate reasons to deride her.

In three-plus decades as a columnist and broadcaster, Marty York has built a network of solid contacts and a renowned reputation for his hard-hitting, groundbreaking style. The tradition continues in Metro Sports.



Wednesday, May 28, 2008

Something for everyone

Popular Corolla gets roomier, sportier

By B. MCLAUCHLAN
for Metro Halifax

With its arrival on the scene in early '08, the new 2009 Corolla represents the 10th generation of this venerable Toyota nameplate, which was first introduced to the world in 1966. Some 33 million people have bought one since then, making it the world's most popular car.

So, with that kind of public acceptance, it's not hard to believe Toyota would tread carefully in any redesign throughout its generational changes.

Its mandate for this 10th iteration was more sportiness, so witness the swoopier styling, which was co-developed by studios in Japan and Italy. Bearing some resemblance to a smaller-scale Camry, the '09 Corolla is fractionally longer overall than the previous model but sits on an unchanged wheelbase. The big change lies in the Corolla's width, however, which increases by 60 mm to help provide a little more shoulder space inside. The car's height has also been shaved slightly and a wider track (the distance between the wheels on front and rear axles) gives this new Corolla noticeably improved stability.

Interior room is essentially unchanged, but much appreciated is the new tilt/telescopic steering wheel (standard equipment on all models that enables driving positions to be

customized to suit individual height and body type).

With its neat combination of value, verve, style and substance the \$14,565 CE delivers more for less. An enviable list of standard features include: satellite-ready AM/FM/CD audio system with MP3/WMA capability, the already mentioned tilt/telescopic steering and electric power steering, as well as six airbags and an anti-lock braking system.

The step-up Corolla LE — \$19,900 and available only with a four-speed automatic transmission — brings a bit more refinement, delivering a moveable feast of upscale features such as 16-inch alloy wheels (15-inch on the CE), push-button start, Optitron gauges, automatic climate control and woodgrain trim.

The \$18,930 Corolla S shifts gears with its sport-inspired side skirt and rear spoiler additions, tinted headlamp housings, leather-wrapped steering wheel and an audio system that features six speakers.

The CE, LE and S models draw their power from a new 1.8-litre four-cylinder engine rated at 132 horsepower. It's an engine that's up to the task



The new 2009 Corolla represents the 10th generation of this venerable Toyota nameplate.

of everyday driving, with decent acceleration and good fuel economy.

For those aspiring to even more sportiness, a new Corolla XRS addition packs a 158 hp four-cylinder engine mated with a five-speed manual. The \$21,655 XRS also adds 17-inch wheels, standard stability control, sport seats, chrome exhaust tips.

Any way you look at it, the Corolla has something for everyone.

2009 Toyota Corolla

- Type: Compact 5-pass. sedan FWD
- Price: \$14,565 - \$23,210
- Engine: 1.8L L4
- DOHC/2.4L L4 DOHC
- HP: 132 @ 6,000 rpm/158 @ 6,000 rpm
- Torque: 128 @ 4,400 rpm/162 @ 4,000 rpm

Highlights:

- Better looking
- Sense of spaciousness
- Standard features
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Honda's convincing coupe

Accord impresses drivers with style and performance

By PHILIPPE CROWE
for Metro Halifax

The redesigned 2008 Honda Accord came to market with an expanded range of innovative technologies designed for greater efficiency, enhanced safety and more power across the lineup.

According to Honda, the goal with this eighth-generation version is to provide Canadians with a vehicle that is "green, safe, fun," and includes an emphasis on expressive styling, fun-to-drive performance and innovative packaging. Some might argue with the innovative packaging part of that statement, but this new Accord sure is fun to drive, powerful and a good handler.

The coupe is available with two engine choices: The 'base' 2.4-litre four-cylinder engine, standard in the EX and EX-L models, pushes out 190 horsepower through either a 5-speed manual or 5-speed automatic transmission — if you opt for the auto add \$1,200 to the EX's \$27,990 and EX-L's \$30,390 manufacturer's



According to Honda, the goal with this eighth-generation version is to provide Canadians with a vehicle that is "green, safe, fun."

suggested retail price (MSRP).

The EX-L V6, as its name suggests, brings you a 268 hp 3.5-litre V6 mated with a standard five-speed automatic (with Grade Logic Control to minimize excessive gear shifting in hilly terrain) or six-speed manual. They command MSRPs of \$35,490.

Our tester was an EX-L V6 with the six-speed manual, 18-inch wheels and leather seat trim. It also came equipped with the available satellite-linked Navigation System with bilingual voice recognition, which took the sticker price to \$38,290.

We were impressed with its power, very good handling, lack of torque-steer (unless you are on slippery pavement) and the fantastic

2008 Honda Accord Coupe EX-L V6 Navi	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type: Mid-size 5-pass coupe FWD • Price: \$38,290 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engine: 3.5L V6 SOHC • HP: 268 @ 6,200 rpm • Torque: 248 @ 5,000 rpm
Highlights:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looks • Powertrain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build quality • Fun to drive

feel of the manual shift lever.

Along with its 268 hp — the most ever for any Accord — the V6 also brings a new generation of fuel-saving variable cylinder management (VCM) that shuts down two or three

cylinders on the highway for improved fuel efficiency. Unfortunately, the VCM version can only be had with the automatic transmission, so the six-speed's mileage will reflect that fact.

But, regardless of which engine it's equipped with, the Accord Coupe remains a highly entertaining drive, with double-wishbone suspension front and rear and typically sharp Honda responses.

Another innovation on the Coupe is its variable gear ratio (VGR) steering. This new system, which uses variable mechanical ratio steering in addition to variable power, provides better feel and greater responsiveness at larger steering angles. And, for once, such a feature actually works and is totally unobtrusive in the process.

The larger interior is intended to provide 'equal' seating comfort for front and rear passengers. There is more rear legroom and width to allow the front seats to be positioned farther apart for a wide centre. This helps give a nice airy feel to the cabin without having the occupants feeling like they are miles away from each other.

All in all, the 2008 Accord Coupe presents itself as a very viable alternative for those who are looking for Honda's reliability but also want to enjoy the driving experience. Kids will just have to get used to Mom's resigned sigh: "Daddy's having fun."

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Travelling by car is still cheaper and less stressful than flying, says the Car Care Council.

Hitting road may be the way to go

Car trips cheaper despite rising fuel prices, group says

Even if gas prices hit \$1.50/litre or more this summer, the traditional family summer vacation by vehicle costs less, is more convenient and less stressful than flying, says the Car Care Council.

A family of four travelling by car costs the same as one person travelling by air, the council says.

Rising ticket prices, fuel surcharges, fewer daily flights, fuller planes, limited baggage, fewer non-stops and longer layovers between con-

better than flying

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- » More legroom and overall comfort.
- » No weather delays.

necting flights don't paint a pretty picture for this summer's vacationing families thinking about flying.

However, even with gas prices considerably higher than last year, the cost of driving is a much better deal compared with going by air.



BMW's 3.0 litre diesel twin-turbo unit, above, scooped the International Engine of the Year award. Left, a BMW model in action.

Total domination

BMW bags six nods at Engine of the Year Awards

BMW has again put on a dominant display at the International Engine of the Year Awards, securing no less than six category wins, including the prestigious overall title of International Engine of the Year 2008 for its outstanding 3.0-litre twin-turbo engine.

The powerful BMW unit was one of seven engines to triumph in the 2008 Awards that use turbocharging to achieve high power output from smaller displacement engines that use less fuel and produce less CO₂.

Indeed, another BMW

Engine of the Year Award winners

» International Engine of the Year 2008: BMW 3-litre Twin-Turbo (135, 335, X6)
 » Best New Engine of 2008: BMW 2-litre Diesel Twin-Turbo (123d)
 » Green Engine of the Year: Toyota 1.5-litre Hybrid Synergy Drive (Prius).
 » Best Performance Engine: Porsche 3.6-litre Turbo (911 Turbo, 911 GT2)
 » Sub 1.0-litre: Toyota 1-litre
 » 1.0-litre to 1.4-litre: Volkswagen 1.4-litre TSI Twin-

charger
 » 1.4-litre to 1.8-litre: BMW-PSA 1.6-litre Turbo (MINI Cooper S, Clubman, Peugeot 207, 308)
 » 2.0-litre to 2.5-litre: Subaru 2.5-litre Turbo (Forester, Impreza)
 » 2.5-litre to 3.0-litre: BMW 3-litre Twin-Turbo (135, 335, X6)
 » 3.0-litre to 4.0-litre: BMW 4-litre V8 (M3)
 » Above 4.0-litre: BMW 5-litre V10 (M5, M6)

class-winner was its 2.0-litre diesel twin-turbo unit which, thanks to its ability to sip just 5.2L/100 km yet deliver 204 hp, scooped the 'Best New Engine of the Year.'

The Awards, which are

judged by 65 motoring journalists from 32 countries from four continents, also rewarded a variety of other manufacturers for engine excellence across a number of different categories.

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New Beetle turns 10

Chalk up another milestone for Volkswagen. The German automaker is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the introduction of its New Beetle model.

Originally unveiled as a design study car called 'Concept 1' at the Detroit auto show in 1994, the New Bee-

tle made its worldwide debut in 1998.

Since then it has solidified its place in North American pop culture, transcending consumers' age, income, education and gender to connect classic Beetle enthusiasts with contemporary audiences.

"We are extremely proud to celebrate the anniversary of the New Beetle, an iconic vehicle that has made a remarkable impact on automotive and pop culture history," said Stefan Jacoby, President and CEO of Volkswagen of America, Inc.



The New Beetle has sold 1 million-plus units worldwide.



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Between the bridges

Sneak peek at Ferrari California

First official pics of convertible released

The first official photographs have been published of the Ferrari California, the latest addition to the current Ferrari lineup, launched in 2004 with the 612 Scaglietti and added to more recently with the 430 Scuderia.

The Ferrari California joins the Prancing Horse's eight-cylinder family, which has always been defined by power and performance.

It also flanks the flagship 612 Scaglietti in the prestige sporty Grand Tourer (GT)

segment.

The new model will be available exclusively as a convertible with a folding hard top.

Both chassis and bodywork are aluminum, in line with the rest of the current range.

The California will be powered by a new V8 engine mounted in the mid-front position — for the first time in Ferrari's history.

The car will be officially unveiled to the public at the Paris International Car Show in October 2008. However, over the coming weeks, new photographs and further details about it will also be released.



Ferrari California joins the Prancing Horse's eight-cylinder family.

Braking techniques crucial

A good, safe drive is about a mixture of techniques, but high on the list must be the need to use your vehicle's brakes in a smooth and progressive way.

You can manage that by practicing observation and anticipation, so that you can begin braking at an early stage and a leave a decent margin for braking more heavily, if the need arises.

Many drivers tend to brake too late and too hard.

Arguably less dangerous but equally annoying, some drivers have the habit of 'comfort braking' — touching the brakes to enable themselves to feel better,



Observation and anticipation are among the techniques necessary for a good, safe drive.

even if they have no intention of slowing the car to any measurable degree. They do so in the belief they are being careful drivers.

It is better by far to learn to read the road ahead; not only do you get early warning of developing hazards, you can respond by adjusting your speed using only your throttle.

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Coastal expert Dr. Stephen Leatherman, a.k.a. Dr. Beach, has named Caladesi Island State Park in Florida's St. Petersburg/Clearwater area as America's Top Beach for 2008.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

Wednesday, May 28, 2008

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Above, the women's shoe department at Saks Fifth Avenue.



The rooftop pool at Soho House, a private members' club in New York City. Samantha led the quartet in gatecrashing the club during an episode of Sex And The City.

Below, during a Sex And The City guided visit by On Location Tours, participants indulge in cupcakes from the celebrated Magnolia Bakery.



ON LOCATION TOURS

Following the fab four through NYC

Plan a visit that's dedicated to Sex And The City

By EMMA E FORREST
Metro World News

Glamorous women all over the world have had to wait no less than four years for the return of Carrie, Charlotte, Miranda and Samantha, the sassy heroines of the most fabulous show in television history, in Sex And The City: The Movie.

The film opens this Friday, but the anticipation has fuelled a wave of interest in touring the New York City hot spots where significant

events took place in our heroines' lives throughout the course of the television series — the purchase of the perfect red stiletto, for instance, or the dispatching of an unsuitable suitor.

The obvious place to start is at Patricia Field's eccentric fashion emporium at 302 Bowery, between Bleecker and Houston St.

The stylist responsible for the looks sported by the SATC ladies, Field is responsible for transforming handbags and shoes into icons, with designer fashion brands clamouring to have their

clothes and accessories worn by our four trend-setting heroines.

Accessorizing is always high on the agenda for Carrie's set. Hunt for utterly impractical sandals at the Jimmy Choo flagship in the Olympic Tower at 645 Fifth Ave., or at Manolo Blahnik at 31 West 54th St. Stock up on 'Tt' handbags at YSL on 57th St., and Marc Jacobs at 301 West

Fourth St., or at the cheaper Marc by Marc Jacobs store at 403-405 Bleecker St.

Feel more Samantha than Carrie? Drop into Versace at 647 Fifth Ave. or Roberto Cavalli at 711 Madison Ave.

» For more information, visit NYC's official tourism site at <http://nycvisit.com/sexandthecity>.

to pick up something sexy in block red, yellow or gold. If you're more of a Miranda, pick up some sensible Calvin Klein or DKNY at Bloomingdale's on 59th St.

For a prim, bourgeois Charlotte-style look, pick up classic skirts and jackets from Narciso Rodriguez at Saks Fifth Ave.

If Carrie's innovative styles are more your thing, pick up some pieces from new designers at Barney's COOP at 116 Wooster St., the department store's showcase store for cutting edge new designers.

After raking the boutiques, stock up on Miranda and

Carrie's favourite cupcakes at the famous Magnolia Bakery at 401 Bleecker St., before taking a break for a walk in Central Park, or peering through the window of the location that featured as the gallery that Charlotte managed, Louis K. Meisel Gallery at 141 Price St.

Have dinner at the restaurants and bars where the SATC girls meet to gossip, flirt and bump into ex-boyfriends including trendy pan-Asian restaurant Tao at 42 East 58th St., or French bistro Balthazar at 80 Spring St., or hip Japanese-Brazilian rooftop eatery Sushi Samba at 245 Park Ave. at 20th St.

Follow up with cocktails — Cosmopolitans, of course

— at the girls' hangouts including Lotus (409 W 14th St.), or Bungalow 8 (515 W 27th St.), or get yourself connected and on the guest list for Soho House, the private member's club that Samantha gatecrashed when she was caught out by Spice Girl Geri Halliwell (29-35 9th Ave.).

Looking for a late-night snack? Drop by 24-hour Grays Papaya at West 8th St. at 6th Ave. where Carrie picked up typically New York hot dogs after her book launch.

All you need now is a hotel room that's a short trot in your new Choo shoes, and a late check out, so you can recover from your big night out, SATC-style.

Picks for a whirlwind girls' getaway weekend in Manhattan

Manhattan is the perfect pick for a girls-only vacation. If you're looking to plan an itinerary takes inspiration from Sex And The City — without slavishly following in the show's footsteps — here are a few suggestions:

CHECK IN: Among New York's long list of hip hotels (The Rivington, The Hudson and The W are my personal faves), the Hotel Roger Williams offers quaint accommodations in Manhattan's midtown district; www.hotel

rogerwilliams.com.

RETAIL THERAPY: Not far from boutique saturated Soho, the Young Designers Market has a great selection of one-of-a-kind jewellery, hats and clothing. Open from 11 to 7 p.m., it's located at 268 Mulberry St. (between Prince and Houston) and entrance is free every Saturday and Sunday.

From there, go bargain hunting for designer discounts at Filene's Basement (4 Union Sq. at E. 14th) or Century 21 (22 Cort-

landt St. between Broadway and Church St.) For high-end apparel visit Fifth Avenue's Takashimaya, one of the world's largest chains of department stores.

SPA DIVAS: After a long day of sightseeing and shopping 'til you drop, take some time for a Vitamin Infusion Facial at the Mandarin Oriental's five-star spa.

The relaxation begins a suggested 40 minutes before your actual treatment, with "heat experiences" — a bubbling pool of mineral water and a steam

room that channels the healing powers of an amethyst crystal.

The facial itself includes a collagen mask and a series of nutrient-infused creams massaged into the skin.

AFTER DARK — HUNKMANIA: It's Raining Men at Hunkmania is a so-called male review in which "certified hunks" take their clothes off for an energetic crowd of screaming, tipsy

women. It all takes place at Club Duvet, where rippling abs,

bulging biceps and overpriced drinks are part of the package. Never-the-less, watching faux firemen and ninjas get down to their boxer-briefs is a fun, harmless way to let loose and get wild with the girls; hunkmania.com.

THE TRAVEL JUNKIE
JULIA DIMON
www.thetraveljunkie.ca

Freelance writer Julia Dimon is editor of The Travel Junkie and host of Word Travels, a new reality TV-series to be broadcast on OLN in 2008. Contact her at www.thetraveljunkie.ca.

entertainment



Chris Noth, left, (*Sex And The City*) has joined Renee Zellweger in the comedy *My One And Only*.

EW.COM

Back from Dubai

» They may have been half a world away from home, but the Amethyst Scottish Dancers of Nova Scotia still got a Bluenose welcome.

"We had a lot of Canadians come up and talk to them. It was a touch of home, and a lot of Nova Scotians," said Gerry MacPhail. He accompanied the all-female dance group — made up of 13 to 15 year olds — who performed in Dubai this month.

"The trip was absolutely fascinating," said MacPhail. "We knew before we left that this would be different than any other trip — or any of us — had ever done before."

"I don't think we knew full what to expect." The group was in the capital of the United Arab Emirates for more than a week this month, performing at a number of international schools, and also as part of a show at the Mall of the Emirates with Aga Boom, a Cirque du Soleil group.

"A lot of interesting conversations took place," he said, adding they met students from around the world, and also got to find out more about Islam and visit local mosques and shrines. "Every we went was a learning experience."

METRO HALIFAX

Rocking with Pride

Musicians unite to show another side of Pride Week

By DEAN LISK
Metro Halifax

Pride Week isn't all about drag queens and boas, said Ryan MacGrath.

"This shows people another side to gay pride," said the singer, who is producing the Rockin' the Gaybourhood music show at Hell's Kitchen this Friday night.

The event, nicknamed Homos in Hell, is being held as a fundraiser for Pride Week 2008, which takes place in Halifax the week of July 20.

Among the musicians — gay and straight — performing at the event are



Tanya Davis

Pamela Underwater, The Caravan, and songwriter Tanya Davis.

"It's about having fun and about community," said Davis, who is about to release a new CD next month.

"I think the night is going to be celebratory and jovial. There are a lot of different artists, different genres playing, so it is going to be eclectic."

"Part of the thing that this event does is shows how diverse and eclectic the queer community is, and like music can be all over the map, the definition of a pride community can be."

MacGrath will also perform at the event with his band Harlow.

This is his second time being involved in the fundraiser.

He also took part in the first Gaybourhood show, which was held in 2006. While that was fun, he expects this year to be better.

"The event was nice because it was not the usual queer event Halifax is used to. It had an independent feel because it was part of the indie rock scene."



Ryan MacGrath is one of the artists performing at Rockin' the Gaybourhood on Saturday.

"This year, it will be even more so in that direction."

Other musicians on the bill include the world-music percussion-based group Zumbini Circus, and female-trio The Ukeladies.

"I have never seen anything like them, because they are doing reggae with ukuleles," MacGrath said.

"It is a really neat match. Sort of hippie, but not really." He is also helping to

organize music during this year's Pride festivities and says those events will include a Ceilidh on the Garrison Grounds.

more information

- » What: Rockin' the Gaybourhood
- » Where: Hell's Kitchen
- » When: Friday, 10 p.m.
- » Tickets: \$7 in advance from Venus Envy. \$10 at the door.

» news In Brief



» **NEW HOME DRUM** has a new location to beat to. The popular show (above) featuring music from four of the province's cultures — Acadian, Black, Celtic and Aboriginal — will now be calling the Bella Rose Arts Centre home. Now in its fifth season, the show had to move after its harbourfront theatre closed. Its new 600-seat theatre is located in Halifax West High School. The show runs Friday, Sept. 12 through Sunday, Oct. 12. For more information, visit www.drumshow.ca

» **TRIPLE PLAY** Thursday will see Halifax play host to a triple-threat evening of music, literature and fashion at the Wired Monk Café on the corner of Hollis and Morris streets. The event will see the launch of new fashion label Interrobang, the launch of Poo — A Memoir by local writer Mark Bolton, and a performance by the band Moonshine Ramblers. The show starts at 7:30 p.m., and tickets are a suggested donation of \$5.

» **FUNDRAISER** There will be a fundraiser featuring Smokin' Contra Dance at St. Matthias Church this Friday night. The event, which runs 8 p.m. to midnight, will feature a caller telling you what to do while the band performs. The event is being hosted by Voice of Halifax and Aliza Weller as a fundraiser for Weller's mother, who has cancer.

METRO HALIFAX

Maritime Dancers prepare for Fusion

Trailer Park Boys actor helps make up cast

By DEAN LISK
Metro Halifax

It's like reading a who's who of Halifax's dance community.

"It's a whole roster this year, and it is wonderful," Kelly Horne says about this year's Maritime Dance Performance Showcase, called Fusion.

"It's huge this year," the company's artistic director said about the show, which will feature 11 choreographers and 12 dances. "The variety of pieces, because you have so many people

involved, makes the show that much more interesting."

Taking place at the Alderney Landing Theatre this weekend, the performance will include works by Jacinte Armstrong, Ruth-Ellen Kroll Jackson, Kate Hayter-Reid, Susanne Chui, and Trailer Park Boys actor Cory Bowles.

"Cory's piece is a remount of one we did last year."

"It had so much acclaim from people last year," Horne said.

"It is a really powerful piece. It is dark and deals with a lot of topics young girls deal with; from peer pressure to depression and anorexia."

The ninth annual show-

case will also feature work by Mocean Dance's Melanie Ferro and Toronto Dance Theatre student Ronda Baker.

Another highlight is Kathleen Vessey, a member of the company who recently won the 18 and over category at Dance Nova Scotia's Taking Steps to Fly show-

more information

- » What: Maritime Dance Performance Group presents Fusion
- » Where: Alderney Landing Theatre
- » When: Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- » Tickets: \$12 and \$16
- » Call 1-888-311-9090 or visit ticketpro.ca

case. "It is a very prestigious award," said Horne.

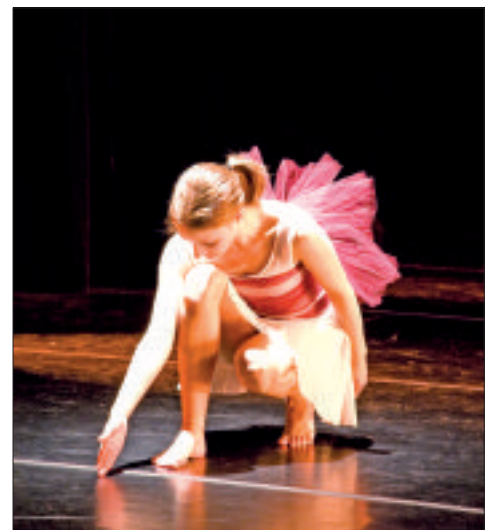
"We have given her the opportunity to perform the piece she did at the Taking Steps to Fly show in our show."

"So, it will be on the stage, with professional lighting, and it will be a great part of the show."

Horne said over the years the show has been a wonderful opportunity to showcase the works of emerging youth dancers as they begin taking their first steps into the world of performing.

"Some of our dancers have gone on to pursue dance as a career bigger than us," she said.

"It's a stepping stone for them."



Maritime Dance Performance will present its ninth annual showcase, called Fusion, this weekend.

The Sex And The City legacy

Hit TV series brought sex lives out in the open

By ANNE FENN
for Metro Halifax

When I was growing up the only people who talked about sex were immature males and septuagenarian sex therapists like Dr. Ruth and Sue Johanson. Then along came Sex And The City. Every (unedited) episode contained the kind of female dialogue that could make a locker room of NHL players engage

in a group blush. Carrie, Samantha, Miranda and Charlotte brought sex out of the dirty closet and into the realm of the public and glamorous, forever changing the way women think, feel, and talk about sex.

For many women, the show was like a weekly encounter with an experienced, fearless lover who broke down barriers and sometimes blew our minds. Girlfriends now openly discuss everything from bi-sexuality, to penis size, to skid marks in their boyfriend's underwear — and more sexual toys, po-

sitions, and fetishes than Miranda's housekeeper could shake a statue of the Virgin Mary at.

We're now well-informed about sexual health issues, including erectile dysfunction, lazy ovaries, crabs, chlamydia, vulvodynia — we even saw Samantha through her first AIDS test.

Like any great comedy series worth its weight in controversy, Sex And The City had its detractors. Some accused the show of taking advantage of a double standard — that you'd never see a show with men talking that



For many women, Sex And The City was like a weekly encounter with an experienced, fearless lover who broke down barriers and sometimes blew our minds.

bluntly about their sexual experiences with women. True, but given that it's still pretty much a man's world, can't the patriarchy throw us the occasional bone of our own? Even the fictional, fantasy-fueled world of Sex And The City couldn't shield its own women from the painful

truth about male power and privilege — lessons that took six full seasons and a movie to learn. Getting Mr. Big aroused was easy. But getting him to commit? That's hard. Besides, most heterosexual men don't want to talk about anything to do with relationships, period (including your

period). Most men are so easily aroused, that sharing intimate details about their heterosexual exploits with their buddies could inadvertently lead to something more serious than a group blush. There are some things even Sex And The City couldn't change.

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Dear Sponsors, Readers, Friends and Family:

We are beyond thankful for everything we've received as the Marry Me, Halifax winners. When we applied for the contest, we really had no idea how amazing the experience could be. Our wedding was everything we could imagine and more, and we have a lot of people to thank for making it all happen. Everything came together so beautifully for our wedding day and it wouldn't have happened if it hadn't been for all the support we received from the Marry Me, Halifax sponsors and vendors.

We would like to personally thank:

- ~ *Casino Nova Scotia – the Compass Room was the perfect venue for our wedding.*
- ~ *One Stop Bridal Shop – Marie, you and your crew were fantastic for both making the room beautiful and for personally designing the bridesmaid's dresses.*
- ~ *Winchesters Bridal for supplying the amazing Midgely & Sottero wedding gown.*
- ~ *Artisans II who created gorgeous hair styles and make-up for the entire wedding party.*
- ~ *Vogue Men's Wear & Tailoring provided the tuxedos for the wedding and the men all looked great!*
- ~ *Tarrah Mills Photography and her team were there to capture all our special moments on film.*
- ~ *Wild Lupin Videographers captured it all on tape. These will be keepsakes we will cherish forever.*
- ~ *Dean's Flowers, and designer Michael Jackson, created beautiful bouquets for the wedding and reception.*
- ~ *Susie's Shortbread made the cute cookie favours that our friends and family loved.*
- ~ *Scanway made our elegant three-tiered cake that was just delicious.*
- ~ *The Wedding Chapel and Rev. Josephine Egan for being part of our special day.*
- ~ *Fireworks Gallery who custom designed our bands.*
- ~ *Golden Harp Saeed, whose beautiful harp and flute duet set the tone for our walk down the aisle.*
- ~ *Advanced Systems who provided the tunes for us to dance the night away!*
- ~ *Miles for Smiles and Neil for the use of the Bentley*
- ~ *Delta Halifax & Barrington for a great rehearsal dinner and honeymoon suite.*
- ~ *ModaColumbia for the wedding night apparel.*
- ~ *Event Specialists, Mahogany Marcial and Megan MacKeigan, who took care of us all the way.*
- ~ *Metro Halifax, thank you for having the Marry Me, Halifax Contest! You made our dreams come true!*

And last, but not least, thank you to the readers for voting, reading and supporting us in our journey. Thank you for making this day so memorable for us. We'll remember this experience always.

Love,

Tony & Michelle Wood



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Sex and the strapless

By KIM ELBO
for Metro Halifax

Canadian designer Mellinda Mae Harlingten fills us in on how to successfully wear a strapless just like the girls of Sex And The City.

1. BUILT IN: If you can't quite find the perfect bra for your strapless, look for one with a built-in bra.



1

This \$395 Milly dress has a concealed bra clasp in the back to ensure a secure fit. (holtrenfrew.com)

2. MINIMIZE: For large chests, "try a strapless dress that cuts straight across your chest so you don't accentuate the obvious," Harlingten said. (DVF dress, holtrenfrew.com.)



3. BALANCE: Try "a low-cut top with a longer length or a conservative top with a shorter length to balance your body and style a bit more," Har-



3

lingten said. (\$465 Milly dress, holtrenfrew.com.)

4. EMBELLISHMENTS: For a smaller bust line like Carrie Bradshaw, embellishments along the top of the dress are best. Bows and decorative trims can help emphasize your chest. (\$435 Betsy Johnson, betseyjohnson.com.)



4

SEX AND THE *cities*

How did the hit TV series change life for women?

NIKKI LAMB

Toronto
"I will never look at a pair of shoes the same again ... (The show) brought a whole new level to the term shoe-aholic."

KELLI GILBERTSON

Vancouver
"It is so much more than sex. The show is really about the message that it's OK to be in love, it's OK to be in love more than once and it's also OK to be single."

RACHEL NORTHCOTT

Halifax
"...It's a show about women socially and professionally doing what they want, and not because of a man's influence."



SIVA MURUGAN

Calgary

"The girls on Sex and the City were more open and vulgar. It makes things more relaxing. You don't have to pretend you're a virgin. But having Charlotte on the show as a character makes it OK not to be open too."

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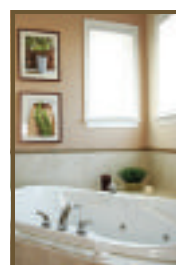
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Exhibitor Space Available

Tori Spelling, right, a member of the original Beverly Hills, 90210 cast, will reprise her role as Donna Martin in the upcoming spinoff for The CW.

EW.COM



Get a piece of The Sopranos

LOOKING GOOD: Anyone looking to start filling up their own Sopranos museum will get a head start next month, when James Gandolfini will auction off a chunk of his wardrobe from the HBO show at Christie's for charity. "The actor's contract allowed him to keep the clothes after the show ended its six-season run last year" said an Associated Press story. "He has authenticated all the outfits in the sale."

The auction is expected to bring in up to \$36,500 US for the Wounded Warrior Project, a charity benefiting severely wounded veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, and will include the monogrammed bathrobe Gandolfini's Tony Soprano is seen wearing in the show's pilot, and the

sports shirt, undershirt and black pants featured in the episode where Soprano was shot by Uncle Junior.

Another 37 costumes worn by Sopranos characters are featured in the sale, though their proceeds will not go to Wounded Warrior. No word on whether a Member's Only jacket is among these extra items.

TALK ABOUT LOW EXPECTATIONS: The geeky goodness of this story is only enhanced by the fact that it was found on Wired magazine's Underwired blog. Fan campaigns to revive canceled shows have gone from wired to tired in barely a year, but Joss Whedon fans — whose hair-trigger finger on the send button accounts for much of my hate mail over



IDIOT BOX
RICK MCGINNIS
rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

the years — are already organizing a campaign to save Dollhouse, Whedon's return to TV, eight months before it's set to debut on Fox.

Starring Eliza Dushku — pinup of choice for the archivally stable mylar comic book bag set — the show was given a green light by Fox before a foot of the pilot was shot, and its episode order was nearly doubled, from 7 to 13,

which means that they'll be able to sell it as a full-priced box set even if only three hit the air before the apparently inevitable drop from primetime.

There's a Facebook fan page with 1,500 members, and DollhouseForums.com, where the online campaign to save the unseen show is being coordinated, with pleas to buy merchandise, increase online trailer viewership, organize viewing parties and create more Dollhouse fan sites. (I hate to be Mr. Downer here, but aren't viewing parties likely to hurt the show, as they mean fewer TV sets tuned to Dollhouse on the nights it airs, not more? Ratings aren't like carpooling, after all, though I guess it gives you an opportunity to show off

your Buffy action figures to people who won't go all glassy-eyed and mouth "loser" when they think you're not looking.)

Some fans are already worried, however, that the preemptive fan campaigns might hurt, not help, the show. "There is a fine line to walk so that this won't be another obnoxious Whedon fan campaign that will piss people off and make them talk negatively about the show in advance," writes one TamaraC on one forum. "Please be careful." Good point, though since the show is airing on chop-happy Fox, I'd call this prudent, if a little bit high school sci-fi club.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera. He walked 47 miles of barbed wire and has a cobra snake for a necktie.

movies



McGregor joins Amelia project

CASTING Ewan McGregor will co-star with Hilary Swank, Richard Gere, and Virginia Madsen in Fox Searchlight's *Amelia Earhart biopic* *Amelia*, *ew.com* reports.

The movie, directed by Mira Nair (*Monsoon Wedding*) from a script by Ron Bass (*Entrapment*), focuses on the aviation legend (Swank) and her rise to fame, marriage to publisher George Putnam (Gere), and affair with Gene Vidal (McGregor), father of author Gore Vidal. McGregor will squeeze *Amelia* in between other projects. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

movies

Bale says Ledger 'intense' on set



PEOPLE Dark Knight star Christian Bale recalls his costar Heath Ledger as "intense" and "anarchistic" on the set of the set of the late actor's last movie.

"He was incredibly intense in his performance, but incredibly mellow and laid-back. Certainly there was this great anarchistic streak to it — just getting dirtier than anybody's envisioned the Joker before," Bale, 34, tells *Details* magazine. Ledger died on Jan. 22 of a prescription-drug overdose at the age of 28.

Bale says the film "was something I wanted to share with him — and expected to do so." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

news

In Brief

BOOKS A new James Bond novel, published to mark the centenary of 007 creator Ian Fleming's birth, was launched yesterday onboard HMS Exeter in central London, BBC News Online reports. The *Devil May Care* was written by Sebastian Faulks. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

critics' corner

Family Guy

If you're fond of Texas, don't watch. When members of the Grif-fins' church think Stewie is possessed by the devil, they come down in force to exorcise him. Terrified by the congregation's zealousness, Lois grabs the family and goes on the run. They wind up in Texas, where, despite meeting a multitude of stereotypical characters, they are made welcome by the locals. Lois is so happy there, she refuses to tell the family when it's safe to go home again. 6:30 PM on TROP



Criminal Minds

What, they couldn't get permits for deer season? The Behavioral Analysis Unit — which includes Gideon (Mandy Patinkin), since this episode is from season two — is called in to find the killer of several people whose bodies are found in the woods. The profiles discover that the victims were taken there for a macabre purpose: to be hunted like animals. Thomas Gibson and Paget Brewster also star in "Open Season." 10 PM on CBS

The Prophecy

Christopher Walken does a great job in this 1995 film as cynical and sarcastic angel Gabriel, who is tired of humans getting all of God's love. So he goes to Earth to obtain a really nasty soul — only to find it's been taken by another angel (Eric Stolz), who wants to prevent the coming war, and hidden in a little girl (Moriah Shining Dove Snyder). Elias Koteas and Virginia Madsen star as her mortal protectors, with Viggo Mortensen as Lucifer. 10 PM on PIX

Men in Trees

Aw, who wouldn't love a houseful of cute little puppies? Someone with work to do, that's who. In this new episode, Jack (James Tupper) returns from his first college lecture in Anchorage with a gift for Marin (Anne Heche): four puppies, whose care and feeding keeps her away from her writing. Annie (Emily Bergl) finds herself attracted to Ivan (Diego Klattenhoff) during preparations for the talent show in the new episode "New Dogs, Old Tricks." 11 PM on ABC

	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
5/28/08	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC News	Inside Chronicle	Wife Swap (N)		Supernanny (N)	Men-Trees	
	7	7	7	ASN	Twice in a Lifetime	Fortune Jeopardy!	Wife Swap (N)	Wife Swap (N)		Supernanny (N)	Law-Order	
	11	11	11	CBC	Grave	Nunn One	Mosque	Sophie	NHL Hockey: Stanley Cup -- Red Wings at Penguins			
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Providence (SC)	Des sque	L'Epicierie	La Petite Séduction	France		Téléjournal	
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	CBS News	Insider	Entertain	Price Is Right		Criminal Minds	CSI: NY
	69	69	69	CTM	TVA 18h	Sucré-salé	Marché	Juste pour rire (SC)	Espirits criminels		TVA 22h	
	6	6	6	CHF	Entertain	ET	ReGenesis	The Office Name Earl	Li'l Death	Back	News (N)	
	9	9	9	CJCH	eTalk	Jeopardy!	CSI: NY (HDTV)	So You Think You Can Dance (N)			News (N)	
	10	10	10	ELTV	Swap Shop (Live)	Fuelin	Build It (N)	Doc Talk	Job Zone	News	EastLink Television	
	36	36	36	FOX	Simpsons	King-Hill	Two Men	So You Think You Can Dance (N)			Fox First	
news	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood Extra (N)	NHL Hockey: Stanley Cup -- Red Wings at Penguins				
	29	29	29	NW	BBC News	Business	News (N)	Newman	National	National	National	
	4	4	4	PBS-B	News-Lehrer	News-Lehrer	Boston	Bid Win	Secrets of the Dead	Great Performances	Auction	
	35	35	35	PBS-D	News-Lehrer	News-Lehrer	Business	BBC News	Secrets of the Dead	Great Performances	Awards	
	68	68	68	TQS	Journal	Flash	Rire	Liaison diplomatique (2000, Suspense)	(SC)	La Magie	Journal	
	23	96	96	BNN	Stars	Business News	Market	Workopol	GetCon	Squeeze Play	Market	
	18	18	18	CNN	The Situation Room	Lou Dobbs Tonight	CNN Election Center	Larry King Live		Cooper	Cooper	
	54	54	54	GOLF	Big Break: Ka'anapali	Memorial	Golf	PGA Tour	GolfCentr	19th Hole	Memorial	Top 10
	52	52	52	RSE	Sportsnet	Hockey	European Poker Tour	Simply	UFC	Best-Sports	Baseball	
	55	55	55	SCOR	Hockey	Game On	RaceNight				Tonight	
sports	45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips		Pass Time	Unique Whips	Pinks	Pinks	Pass Time	
	53	53	53	TSN	Off-Record	Sports	That's Hockey	Interrupt	NBA Basketball: Conf. Final			
	43	43	43	FAO	Zoey 101	Life Derek	So Raven	Smart Guy	Suite Life	Sadie	Montana	Life Derek
	44	44	44	TOON	6teen	Johnny T	George	Road Run	Scooby	Futurama	Tripping	Tripping
	26	26	26	TREE	Fifi	Backyard	Pets	Night Grdn	Wiggle	Franklin	Little Bear	Spider
	27	27	27	YTV	Drake	iCarly	Malcolm	Prank Ptr	Fries	Futurama	Shadow	Falcon
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	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		The Boot	Usher	Access	College Hill: Atlanta	The Wire	
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal	Literature	Arts	Wingfield	Camera	These Girls ** (2005, Comedy)		
family	67	97	97	CLT	Help TV		The West Wing	Imperium: The Rise and Fall of an Empire		Traders		
	25	25	25	CMT	Picture This		CMT30	Totally	Cheerleader Nation	Reba	Faith	Home Imp.
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy	Air Force	22 Min	Laughs	Corner	Simpsons	S. Park
	153	153	153	COURT	Crime File	72 Hours	The Investigators		The District		Special Forces	Investi
	38	38	38	DISC	How-Made	How-Made	Daily Planet		Really Big Things (N)	Dirty Jobs	Mayday	
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House	Buy Me	Potential	My House	Property	City
	46	46	46	HMT	Disasters	Mastmnd	NCIS		Inventors	Legends	Working Over Time	NCIS
	17	17	17	MM	Punk'd	Born to Be	Gone Wild	Hotties		The Shift	Punch	
	19	19	19	MMM	Profile	mmmtop10.com	Popaganda		Back In	Listed	Lyrics	
	201	201	201	MT	Stranger Than Fiction		American Dreamz ** (2006)		Evan Almighty ** (2007)			
cable variety	48	23	23	OLN	Don't Forget		R Wiese	Videos	Ed's Up	Planet	The Rig	Mans
	51	51	51	PEACH	Friends	Seinfeld	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	We Were Soldiers *** (2002, War)	Mel Gibson.		Travels
	206	206	206	PBX	(6:30) Blackout		(8:15) Dead Silence ** (1997)		The Prophecy (1995, Horror)			
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct (SC)		Dominique Poirier		Grands reportages	Le Téléjournal (SC)	Le Club	
	39	39	39	SHOW	Trailer	Billable	ReGenesis		Da Vinci's Inquest	Trailer	Rent	Life
	40	40	40	SLICE	Three Takes		Women	Debt Part	X-Weighted (N)	Find-Husband	Trading	
	47	47	47	SPACE	The Sentinel		Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek Gen.	Supernat	
	14	14	14	SPICE	CSI: Crime Scn		CSI: Crime Scn		CSI: Crime Scn	UFC Unleashed	Fighter	
	57	98	98	STAR	Making It	Treatment	Look Like	Hollywood	TMZ	eTalk	Design	In Fashion
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear		Jon & Kate Plus 8		Jon Kate	Jon Kate	Jon Kate	Jon Kate
cable variety	56	34	34	TROP	Inside Box	Vanity	TV Made	Ad Pers	ET	What	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld
	20	20	20	TVS	Champion	J'ral FR2	Toute une histoire		Rive droite, rive gauche (1984)		La 25ème	24 idées
	28	28	28	W	Side Effects		Murder, She Wrote		Sorry!	No Place	Jeeves and Wooster	Rabbit Fall
	22	22	22	W	Shopping	House	Will-Grace	Friends	Shopping	Style Jury	Cookies	Stuck
	251	251	251	WGN	My Wife	Jim	Two Men	Fam. Guy	MLB Baseball	Los Angeles Dodgers at Chicago Cubs.		Maxed

celebritybuzz

Knowles may record Bond song

R&B star Beyoncé Knowles has reportedly been approached to replace Amy Winehouse and record the theme song for the forthcoming Bond movie, *Quantum Of Solace*, imdb.com reports.

Rehab hitmaker Winehouse was rumoured to have been dropped as the film's official musical muse after DJ Mark Ronson told reporters he had scrapped his 2007 collaboration with the singer, because she was not "ready" to work on music after a recent return to her erratic ways.

But on Saturday, Winehouse confirmed that she has, in fact, completed the song — although she is unsure whether movie bosses will choose to green-light the track for use in the latest superspy offering.

Metro News Services



Scott Gries/Getty Images

Downey Jr. to play Hef?

Robert Downey, Jr. has been tipped to play legendary porn mogul Hugh Hefner in a big-screen biopic — after reportedly impressing the Playboy entrepreneur with his lead role in *Iron Man*, imdb.com reports.

Veteran lothario Hefner was so pleased with the former hell-raiser's portrayal of wealthy playboy Tony Stark in this year's comic blockbuster, he is desperate to sign him up for the role.

According to Illinois newspaper the *Chicago Sun-Times*, Hefner wants Downey Jr. to start shooting the movie — entitled *Playboy* — next summer. And the Golden Globe-winner is said to be keen to take on the role of Hefner — as long as the script is right. Apollo 13 filmmaker Brian Grazer has already been signed up as the film's producer, according to the publication.

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Evan Agostini/Getty Images

Liv's motherhood dream

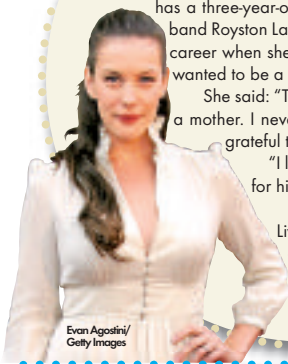
Liv Tyler grew up wanting a baby. The actress — who has a three-year-old son, Milo with estranged husband Royston Langdon — never thought of having a career when she was younger because she always wanted to be a mother, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

She said: "The dream of my whole life was to be a mother. I never had a dream of a career. I'm so grateful to have my son."

"I love travelling with him and it's best for him to be close to me."

Despite splitting from Royston, Liv admits she would like more children.

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Evan Agostini/Getty Images

The Jolie-Pitts settle down

Brangelina's ever expanding brood is going to have a lot more room to play. A lot.

Expectant parents Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have reportedly plunked down an eye-popping \$60 million on a sprawling 1,000-acre estate in the south of France, E! News Online.com reports. With 35 bedrooms, plus a vineyard, lake, forest and moat, Maddox, Pax, Zahara, Shiloh and the soon-to-be-born twins are going to be playing house in high style.

"It's called Chateau Miraval in a village called Brignol, which is near from Aix-en-Provence," a source tells *E! News*. "And it's absolutely unbelievable."

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Alberto E. Rodriguez/Getty Images

Johansson won't tour new album

Scarlett Johansson won't tour her new album, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The *Match Point* actress has recently released an album of Tom Waits covers, entitled *Anywhere I Lay My Head* but has decided against live performances in support of the release.

Scarlett said recently she was considering some festival performances to help combat her stage fright.

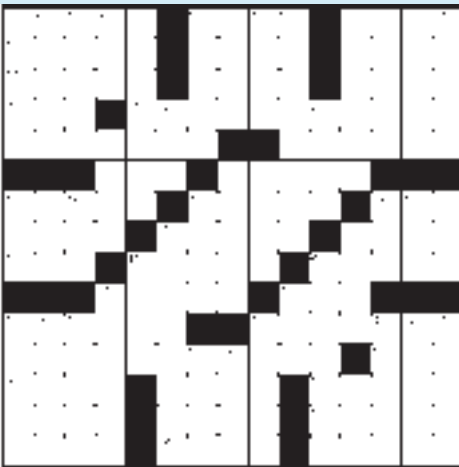
She said: "It would be sad to not get the band together. Whether it's at a festival or somewhere that's kind of fun."

"But I have horrible stage fright, so it would have to be overcome. People approach me and my usual answer is, 'Ah, I'll think about that'."

"When I do think about it, I start to get really sweaty and uncomfortable and itchy around the neck."

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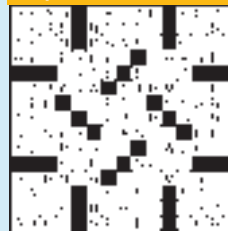
down»

- 1 Off-road vehicles
- 2 Dispense
- 3 Oscar or Cornel
- 4 Cousteau's summer
- 5 Hamlet's realm
- 6 Veldt grazer
- 7 Corncake
- 8 Goody
- 9 Rooms
- 10 Parka
- 11 Grades papers
- 12 Touche provokers
- 13 Unpleasant
- 22 Mork's planet
- 23 Trapped like —
- 25 Pottery
- 28 Mild
- 29 Sweet-scented blossom
- 30 Eggs, to Ovid
- 31 Sharp turn
- 32 Poker card
- 33 Better than ok
- 34 Give — rest!
- 35 Damp and chilly
- 36 Happy sighs
- 38 Laze around
- 39 Tall vases
- 41 Not all
- 42 Mollycoddles
- 43 Screen blinker
- 44 Chemist's lair
- 45 Knee neighbors
- 46 A bit creepy
- 47 "Alfie" star
- 48 Russian export
- 49 Popped up
- 50 Starbucks order
- 51 Piece of paper
- 53 MD employers
- 54 Mob scene
- 59 — de mer

across»

- 1 Yakked
- 6 "Beowulf", for one
- 10 You said it!
- 14 Creme-de-la-creme
- 15 Highland lake
- 16 CARQUEST rival
- 17 DeGeneres sitcom
- 18 "Diana" singer
- 19 Mother lodes
- 20 Herd of whales
- 21 Investment option (2 wds.)
- 24 Wine waiter
- 26 Loud and rude
- 27 Indiana Jones quest
- 28 Cheerless
- 30 Missouri range
- 33 Dally with
- 34 Tax shelter
- 37 Weakness
- 38 Glass containers
- 39 Bryce Canyon state
- 40 Epoch
- 41 Small coin
- 42 Gizzards
- 43 Like a canary
- 44 Chaney of horror flicks
- 45 Tie down
- 48 Feudal tenants
- 52 Hunks, so to speak
- 55 Super Bowl roar
- 56 Orchid-like flower
- 57 During
- 58 Ham it up
- 60 Muchacho
- 61 Obtained from a source
- 62 Try a sip
- 63 Palm reader, maybe
- 64 This, in Tijuana
- 65 Driving hazard

previous answer



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Yesterday's Answer
The answer is C. 125.
Add five consecutive numbers
to get the next number.

	1		7		5			2
				9		4		5
			4			1	7	
	4						6	7
			3		2			
9	3							1
	2	5		7				
6		8		3				
1			8		9		3	

instructions»

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

solve time»

Under 13 minutes
13-17 minutes
17-21
21-25
More than 25

Genius
Scholar
Smart
Pretty good
Keep practising

previous answer

6	4	7	5	1	8	3	9	2
2	1	8	7	3	9	4	6	5
3	9	5	2	4	6	7	1	8
9	5	2	4	6	7	1	8	3
4	8	1	3	2	5	9	7	6
7	3	6	8	9	1	2	5	4
1	6	4	9	8	3	5	2	7
5	2	9	6	7	4	8	3	1
8	7	3	1	5	2	6	4	9

HOROSCOPE



ARIES | March 21-April 20

Be real with someone special. Nonchalance works wonders during a disaster. Keep a stiff upper lip over someone's bad manners.



TAURUS | April 21-May 21

A co-worker tries to trip you up in a crucial project. Appreciate extra thoughtfulness after a fiasco. A visitor wants to change his mind.



GEMINI | May 22-June 21

A lie touches on the truth. Rely on a trusted friend to give good advice. A family member gives some unwelcome criticism.



CANCER | June 22-July 22

Lend a hand to complete a project. Forgotten exploits are out in the open. A senior relative is considerate and agreeable.



LEO | July 23-Aug. 23

Dream images refuse to release you. Avoid involvement in Internet romances. Postpone making any plans for Saturday.



VIRGO | Aug. 24-Sept. 22

There's movement in store for cherished dreams. Count your chickens before they hatch. A dishonest male has fateful plans.



LIBRA | Sep. 23-Oct. 23

Be optimistic that a situation will work out. Find an eye-opening solution to a dilemma. An invitation to meet will be warmly received.



SCORPIO | Oct. 24-Nov. 22

The wrong person is placed in charge. Distress just rolls off your back. All paths lead to delight in relationships.



SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Unfair comparison of circumstances is harmful. Snide comments result from disillusionment. Kisses can restore emotional balance.



CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Hope grows for a soon-to-be completed project. Answer the call to lessen debts. Prepare for a tame ride in your love life.



AQUARIUS | Jan. 21-Feb. 18

A cautious approach to a relationship saves the day. You get recognition for your expertise. New shoes provide good cheer.



PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Resist efforts to give up on your beliefs. Check your values before accepting a shady deal. You know how good you've been. AVATAR VENUS

This Day IN HISTORY

May 28, 1930: The Chrysler Building in New York City officially opens.

pushes a button signaling the start of vehicle traffic over the span.

May 28, 1937: The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California, is officially opened by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in Washington, DC, who

May 28, 1940: WWII: Belgium surrenders to Germany.

May 28, 1952: The women of Greece gain the suffrage.

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Halifax weather

Afternoon



Sunny.
15°

Tonight



Clear.
6°

Thursday



Partly cloudy.
16° / 6°

Friday



Sunny.
16° / 7°



Variable.
16° / 11°

Temperature
Normals
High: 16°
Low: 6.1°

Records
High: 27.8°/1972
Low: 0°/1974

Sunrise: 5:34 a.m.
Sunset: 8:49 p.m.
Moonrise: 1:55 a.m.
Moonset: 1:29 p.m.

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